

What you need to know and do **BEFORE** starting swine projects Preparing your Facilities and Project to be Ractopamine-Free

What is it? Ractopamine is a feed additive that enhances growth in meat animals. When used according to label, it is considered safe by FDA for both pigs and humans consuming pork from these pigs. However, due to extreme export demands and trade issues, many packing plants have banned the product. Tyson's is one of these ractopamine-free plants. **It is critical, required and now a rule that all Washington County Fair swine projects be ractopamine-free.**

Cleaning steps BEFORE projects arrive to your farm:

Remove all:

- Feed that has been in contact with ractopamine or from a feed mill that uses ractopamine
- Feed sacks with ractopamine contact
- Unknown or unlabeled feed products
- Old bedding
- Feed dust from corners, cracks, etc.

How to clean: soap and water scrub

What to scrub/replace:

- Scoops, Brooms, Buckets, Water pans
- Bulk bins/feed storage units, feed hauling vehicles
- Gates/Fans
- 3 feet up on walls
- Floors, alleyways, cement lots
- Livestock trailer/transport boxes
- Show box, brushes, whips, pipes, combs
- Scales
- Anything that has been to county fair or open shows
- Anything pigs will come in contact with
- Any space your pig will have access to

Know Your Feed Source:

Due to high risk of cross-contamination, it is important to work with only feed sources/mills who are ractopamine-free. Ask them. That is your duty as a customer. Are they using this product in their mill for any species? If so, their products cannot be around your county fair pigs or facilities.

Resources:

- ⇒ <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/swine>
- ⇒ <https://www.ipic.iastate.edu/>

Why This Matters:

Cross-contamination can occur quite easily through minor exposure to any urine, feces, bedding and feed—old or new. It has proven difficult to clean areas and equipment that were previously in contact with ractopamine in order to prevent cross-contamination. **So, this cleaning and preparation step must be done with an integrity and respect** for not only your fellow 4-Hers and the Washington County Fair, but for the entire swine industry and relationship between 4-H and the public.

Risk with other species:

Livestock feed that contains this product will risk cross-contamination to swine projects. Optaflexx® is a cattle product containing ractopamine. Cross-contamination (even through feed dust of the cattle feed) could result in ractopamine-positive animals that have never been directly fed ractopamine.

Swine Deadlines:

- ⇒ **March 16** - Single Source Swine Registration deadline
- ⇒ **March 28** - Single Source/Production Weigh-in
- ⇒ **May 15** - All non-weigh-in animals must be ID'ed in 4hOnline by families.
- ⇒ **June 1**— YQCA online certification due. Required of all swine exhibitors.
- ⇒ **July 1** - **Fair Livestock Entries Due** online through Fair Entry